

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASUNCI 03399 191252Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 /073 W

-----058743 201124Z /23

R 182115Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3792

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 3399

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PA, US

SUBJECT: NEW GOP ATTITUDE TOWARD U.S.: FROM HATE TO LOVE -- OR AT
LEAST WRAM REGARD

REF: A) ASUNCION 3213 B) ASUNCION 3336

1. FOR THE U.S. EMBASSY IN ASUNCION, THE GOVERNMENT'S THREATS AND
INSULTS OF JULY HAVE GIVEN WAY TO SMILES AND BONHOMIE IN AUGUST.
DURING THE THREE DAYS SUROUNDING PROESIDENT STROESSNER'S AUGUST 15
INAUGURATION, HIGH GOP OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN ALMOST EMBARRASSINGLY
FRIENDLY. THE PUBLIC SEAL OF APPROVAL WAS APPLIED AUGUST 14 AT
A CHINESE EMBASSY RECEPTION FOR THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
OF TAIWAN WHO LED ITS SPECIAL DELEGATION TO THE INAUGURATION. PRES-
IDENT STROESSNER MADE A POINT OF REQUESTING THAT THE AMBASSADOR
COME OVER TO TALK WITH HIM ON TWO OCCASIONS WHILE HE WAS SURROUNDED
BY HIS USUAL RETINUE OF CABINET MINISTERS, GENERALS AND CIVILIAN
AIDES. THE TWO DISCUSSED NOTHING OF SUBSTANCE BUT THE SYMBOLISM HERE,
WHERE THE PRESIDENT'S FAVOR COUNTS FOR EVERYTHING, WAS NOT LOST ON
THE BYSTANDERS.

2. THE TONE HAS ALSO CHANGED ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ASUNCI 03399 191252Z

PREVIOUSLY VAGUE ASSURANCES THAT THE CASES OF THE FEW
REMAINING POLITICAL PRISONERS WOULD BE SETTLED "SOON" HAVE
NOW BECOME DEFINITE STATEMENTS THAT PRISONERS NOT ENGAGED
IN THE CURRENT HUNGER STRIKE WILL BE RELEASED. ONE WHO
IS EATING HAS BEEN LET GO BUT THE OTHERS CONTINUE TO FAST
AT EMBOSCADA PRISON. OTHER SIGNS OF CHANGE: WE ALSO
HAVE WORD FROM VERY GOOD SOURCES THAT PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER

PAPPALARDO AND CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT ACOSTA INVITED THE AMBASSADOR THE THE FIVE-HOUR MEETING ON AUGUST 4 (REFTEL)(A) AT THE EXPRESS DIRECTION OF PRESIDENT STROESSNER; AT THE LAST MOMENT AUGUST 17, PAPPALARDO ASKED THE AMBASSADOR TO CANCEL HIS WEEKEND FISHING TRIP BECASUE THE PRESIDENT WANTED THE WHITES TO JOIN HIM IN HIS BOX AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE UNIVERSITY GAMES AT THE NATIONAL STADIUM ON SATURDAY; PAPPALARDO OFFERED THE PRESIDENTIAL PLANE TO TAKE THE PARTY ON THE FISHING TRIP NEXT WEEK INSTEAD; THE STUDIED RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS REGARDING AN IAHC VISIT OF SLOUGHING THEM OFF WITH VAGUE ASSURACNES THAT IT WOULD BE TAKEN CARE OF "SOON" OR AT THE "APPROPRIATE TIME" ALSO DISAPPEARED WITH INAUGURATION DAY; A NUMBER OF SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE PALACE, FOREIGN OFFICE AND INTERIOR MINISTRY NOW TALK AS IF THE VISIT IS AN ACCOMPLISHED FACT, ALTHOUGH TIMING IS SAID TO BE ANYWHERE FROM "WITHIN A MONTH" TO "BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR". HERE WE SHOULD NOTE THE SIZEABLE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AND AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO ACCEPT A VISIT, (ALREADY GIVEN), THE SETTING OF A DATE FOR THE VISIT TO BEGIN (NOT YET), AND THE ACTUAL ARRIVAL OF THE IAHC COMMISSIONERS IN ASUNCION (HARD TO PREDICT GIVEN THE GOP'S TRACK RECORD TO DATE).

3. WE NOW KNOW WHAT THE GOP WANTS IN RETURN: A HIGH-LEVEL U.S. VISIT TO PARAGUAY. WHEN PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER PAPPALARDO TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE ISSUE OF THE IAHC VISIT WAS FINALLY SETTLED, HE SAID THE GOP WANTED A HIGH-LEVEL U.S. VISIT AS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ASUNCI 03399 191252Z

EVIDENCE OF GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS. THE AMBASSADOR TOLD PAPPALARDO THAT, IF AND WHEN THE GROUNDWORK HAD BEEN LAID, THE EMBASSY WOULD DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITIES OF A HIGH-LEVEL VISIT.

4. EVENTS OF THE PAST TWO MONTHS STRENGTHEN OUR BELIEF THAT WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO HOLD TO A FIRM LINE AND MAKE NO GOODWILL GESTURE TO THE GOP UNTIL THE QUEATION OF AN IAHC VISIT IS COMPLETELY SETTLED. WE BELIEVE EVERYTHING POINTS TOWARD A SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION OF ALL THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES WHICH HAVE ADVERSELY AFFECTED OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. WHY? BECAUSE THE GOP IS FINALLY CONVINCED THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO ITS HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY AND THE GOP NEEDS GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE USG TO OFFSET ITS SMOTHERING CLOSENESS TO BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA. ONCE THE IAHC VISIT OBSTACLE IS OVER-COME WE BELIEVE THE USG SHOULD FIND WAYS TO DEMONSTRATE ENCOURAGEMENT AND APPROVAL FOR THE ADVANCES MADE BY THE GOP IN HUMAN RIGHTS OVER THE LAST YEAR.
WHITE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ASUNCIO3399
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780340-1066
Format: TEL
From: ASUNCION
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780846/aaaablrh.tel
Line Count: 112
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2c41e360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ASUNCION 3213, 78 ASUNCION 3336
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1686835
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW GOP ATTITUDE TOWARD U.S.: FROM HATE TO LOVE -- OR AT LEAST WRAM REGARD
TAGS: PEPR, PA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2c41e360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014